

SERVE Illinois

N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First publication

Winter 2007

AmeriCorps Opening Day 2006

Over 500 Illinois AmeriCorps Members were sworn in at the annual Opening Day Ceremony and Celebration on October 25, 2006, at the Interstate Conference Center in Bloomington. The gathering, hosted by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Commission), brought together AmeriCorps Members from AmeriCorps*State and National programs from across the state, as well as a handful of representatives of Senior Corps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation). Including staff, speakers, and workshop facilitators – the largest gathering for the event to date.

Representing the Corporation, AmeriCorps*State and National Director Kristin McSwain addressed the crowd in the morning and presided at the official swearing-in ceremony in the afternoon. She reminded attendees of the importance of community service at the local level, as well as being a part of the larger national service movement which is making a difference nationwide. The keynote speaker was Patrick George of Alabama (www.patrick-george.com), a professional speaker and teacher, whose address was entitled, "I Challenge You." George inspired and motivated attendees to not only continue serving as they have already committed to doing through

AmeriCorps, but to take it to the next level and to continue serving others throughout their lives.

The day included afternoon training workshops on the topics of professionalism, stress management, cultural diversity, emergency preparedness, "Life After AmeriCorps," and volunteer recruitment. Some current and former AmeriCorps Members hosted a panel discussion for first year Members about their experience in the program and how to maximize the experience. Members also networked and

shared information about their programs in the lobby of the conference center, which featured numerous display tables with informational brochures. Some Members were even interviewed for their local television stations' evening news.



National AmeriCorps Director Kristin McSwain swears in the 2006-2007 class of Illinois AmeriCorps Members.



Illinois AmeriCorps Member is interviewed for her local television news

For more information about AmeriCorps, please visit the following Web sites, or call the Commission at **800.592.9896** for an informational packet and application.

- AmeriCorps
www.americorps.org
- Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service
www.illinois.gov/volunteer
- Corporation for National and Community Service
www.nationalservice.org

Americorps: Your World. Your chance to Make it Better.



From the Secretary



The historic groundbreaking for a national monument to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was recently held in our nation's capital. His birthday, January 15th, is a national holiday, and a day for Americans throughout this country to reflect upon his life's work. Let me encourage our *SERVE Illinois* readers to join the hundreds of thousands of Americans who will honor Dr. King by participating in a National Day of Service, volunteering in their communities to honor his legacy.

Last year, national service programs in Illinois led the way with service projects on Martin Luther King Day, including such activities as:

- community literacy activities and events for adults and children
- social justice lectures and conversations
- diversity and conflict resolution training
- oral presentations and storytelling about Dr. King's legacy
- reading to seniors and nursing home residents
- serving meals and helping the homeless
- Martin Luther King Day parades and ceremonies focused on his dedication to service

This spirit of strengthening communities by serving others was a hallmark of Dr. King's life and is a year-round focus of the AmeriCorps program and of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS). AmeriCorps, operating in Illinois since its inception in 1994, concentrates on "getting things done" in local communities with programs devoted to education, human service and support needs, environmental quality, and public health and safety.

The holidays may have just passed; however, our collective commitment to serving others should never end. Volunteer your time, talents, and/or resources to a community service agency or charity of your choice on Dr. King's birthday. Let your "Martin Luther King Day" be "A day ON ... not a day OFF!"

This National Day of Service is organized by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service and recognized by the ICVCS.

In the words of Dr. King, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Sincerely,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

From the Chair



January is National Mentoring Month (NMM). A mentor is an adult who provides young people with support, counsel, friendship and reinforcement. Mentors may also serve as tutors for children learning to spell, read, write and do basic math, among other subjects.

At the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) we are fortunate to have a number of commissioners and programs with expertise in the tutoring and mentoring of youth. In fact, several of Illinois' AmeriCorps*State programs are engaging AmeriCorps Members or recruiting others in their communities to participate in tutoring or mentoring programs, many of which include after-school programs for at-risk youth.

Daniel Bassill is an ICVCS commissioner and the founder/president of Cabrini Connections' Tutor/Mentor Connection program at the Cabrini-Green housing development in Chicago www.tutormentorconference.bigstep.com. "I hope that National Mentoring Month will encourage public and private sector leaders, traditional volunteers, national service programs serving youth, and potential donors to connect and share ideas with one another," Bassill says. "The Internet is an excellent mechanism for facilitating this collaboration."

NMM 2007 is spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health www.WhoMentoredYou.org, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership www.Mentoring.org, and the Corporation for National and Community Service www.CNCS.gov. Other partners include: Big Brothers Big Sisters, America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, Communities in Schools, United Way and the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network.

While we focus this month on mentoring initiatives, the ICVCS continues to be very happy with all of the AmeriCorps programs funded by the ICVCS and their program focus areas. For more information about volunteer opportunities in your area, visit www.illinois.gov/volunteer or www.1-800-volunteer.org.

Yours in service,

Dave Lawrence, Chairman
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Successful Bi-State Conference *Held in the Quad Cities*

The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (the Commission) sends its congratulations and thanks to the Mississippi Valley Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (MVDVIA) for a successful conference this past November in Moline, Illinois. The Commission was encouraged by the attendance – a 50% increase over last year – and was honored to participate. MVDVIA reports that these volunteer administrators oversee between 100 and 1,000 volunteers each, so the impact of this regional conference is huge. We hope more volunteer organizations host similar conferences for the promotion of volunteerism and volunteer management.



Commission Chair Dave Lawrence, Executive Director Scott Kimmel, and AmeriCorps Program Manager Deborah McCarrel participated in a panel discussion on "Running a Volunteer Program in a Bi-State Community," along with Commissioner Elesha Gayman of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, and more recently, Representative-Elect to the Iowa House of Representatives.



The mission of MVDVIA is to enhance the development and growth of volunteer program administrators through communication, education and networking, and to promote volunteerism in the Quad Cities. DOVIA is recognized around the world as a professional volunteer management organization, with the local Mississippi Valley DOVIA chapter covering Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter or to make changes to your information, please send us your:

Name _____
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 City, State, Zip _____
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Clip and mail to: SERVE Illinois Editor, ICVCS

535 W. Jefferson Street, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702.

By fax: 217.557.0515. By e-mail: DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov



The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service. Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, non-profits, business, volunteerism and national service. www.illinois.gov/volunteer



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 Scott Niermann, Training Coordinator
 Scott McFarland, Graduate Public Service Intern

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

Steven Guerra, Director,
 Division of Community Health and Prevention
 Kim Fornero, Chief, Bureau of Community-Based and Primary Prevention

you should know

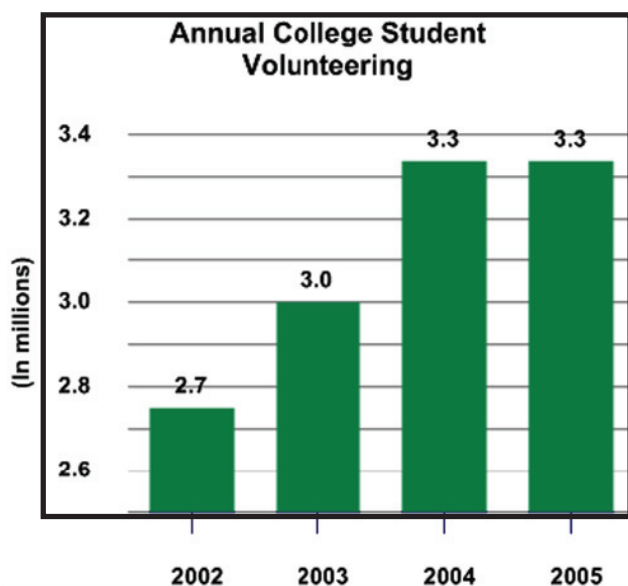
College Students Helping America

The federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently released the largest and most comprehensive analysis of volunteering by college students ever conducted in the United States. The report found that 3.3 million college students volunteered in 2005 – nearly 600,000 more students than three years ago.

“This rise in college student volunteering and the growing campus support for service are hopeful signs for the future of civic involvement in America,” said Steve Goldsmith, CNCS Board Chairman.

Key Findings:

- The growth rate of college student volunteers (approximately 20%) is more than double the growth rate of all adult volunteers (9%).
- College students were twice as likely to volunteer as individuals of the same age who are not enrolled in an institution of higher education (30.2% and 15.1%, respectively).
- In 2005, approximately 30.2 percent of college students volunteered, exceeding the volunteer rate for the general adult population of 28.8 percent.



The graph and statistics above were provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development, College Students Helping America, Washington, D.C., 2006.



Illinois LeaderCorps held its fall conference November 17-18, 2006, at the State House Inn in Springfield. Nearly 40 Members from across the state convened at the first LeaderCorps training conference of the new program year to enhance their leadership skills as AmeriCorps Leaders and to do initial planning for the **National & Global Youth Service Day** statewide project in April.

The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) recently received a prestigious Lead Agency grant from Youth Service America, funded

by State Farm Companies Foundation, for the planning of youth-led service activities for National & Global Youth Service Day. LeaderCorps Members were presented with the \$2,000 grant check at the conference for the planning of a statewide youth service project to take place April 20-22, 2007.

Trainer Jeff Birdsall of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory came from Seattle to lead sessions in an intensive 12+ hour training weekend. Workshop topics, which were aligned with the service project planning process, included activities on leadership styles, listening and communication, effective facilitation and project planning.



LeaderCorps Members listen to Jeff Birdsall as they initiate planning for National & Global Youth Service Day in Illinois.



LeaderCorps Vice-President Kaylee Champ, of Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps, receives a \$2,000 check on behalf of Illinois LeaderCorps from Scott Kimmel, Executive Director of the ICVCS.

Illinois LeaderCorps is a member-organized council that connects AmeriCorps programs and acts as a liaison between Members and the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.

The Spirit of Cesar Chavez Lives on *through Service-Learning*

On December 6, 2006, at the Duncan YMCA in Chicago, staff from the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation conducted a service-learning workshop to encourage participation in the *Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn* program. Julie Chavez Rodriguez, granddaughter of the late labor hero, facilitated the workshop to give educators the tools and support they need to implement this service-learning model.

The *Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program* is geared toward K-12 students who, through academic instruction and community service projects, will learn the importance of service to others and the difference they truly can make. This educational program reinforces the importance of community-building through volunteer work and is aligned with Illinois Learning Standards.

More than 60 educators attended the workshop sponsored by the Office of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, the Illinois Resource Center and the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. The morning session highlighted the values that guided Cesar Chavez's life and lessons learned using the Chavez service-learning model. The afternoon session focused on training facilitators to conduct individual workshops in their schools or community organizations in the future.

The *Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program* is administered in the office of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn. The program had more than 4,000 participants in 100 service-learning projects throughout Illinois last year. To learn more about this program, please visit www.ServeAndLearn.org or contact the lieutenant governor's office at 312.814.5220



Julie Chavez Rodriguez, granddaughter of the late labor hero Cesar E. Chavez, facilitated a service-learning workshop for educators.

Report Finds Increase in College Student Volunteering *and Civic Engagement Since 9/11*

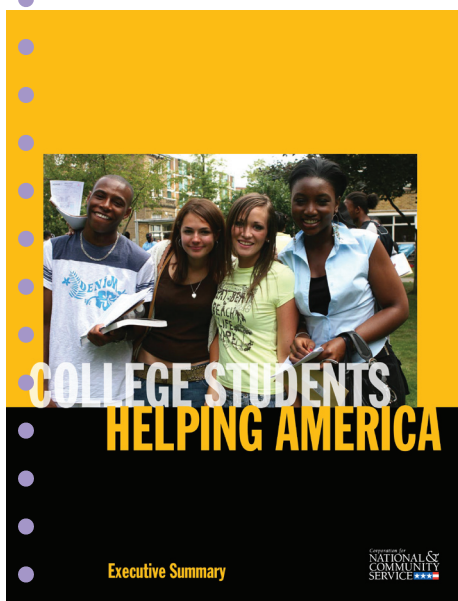
Volunteering among college students has risen sharply in the years since the 9/11 attacks, suggesting the possible emergence of a new "civic generation," according to the "College Students Helping America"

report released by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Key findings of the report are on page 4 of this newsletter.

"One bright spot coming out of the 9/11 tragedy is a surge of interest by college students in serving their community," said Steve Goldsmith, Board Chairman of the Corporation. The vast majority, or

84 percent, of current college student volunteers in the study were of high-school age during the attacks of 2001. They witnessed the heroic response of police officers, firefighters and other public servants who made tremendous personal sacrifices to guide victims and the nation through the traumatic event.

The report brings a wealth of welcomed news to those working to expand college service. College student community service and civic engagement are key elements of the new five-year strategic plan of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Higher education is a powerful engine of civic engagement, and we are committed to working with university and student organizations and the larger nonprofit sector to nurture this growing civic generation," continued Goldsmith. The Corporation is working with other federal agencies, colleges and universities, higher education and student associations, and nonprofit organizations to increase the number of college students volunteering each year to 5 million by 2010.



SIUC-Women's Center Partnership Wins Top Honor



Stacia Creek, SIUC student, Camille Dorris, director of the Women's Center, Mythili Rundblad, coordinator of student development and AmeriCorps campus coordinator, and Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for student affairs accept their award from former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

A partnership between Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and the Women's Center in Carbondale captured the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award on October 16, 2006, in Chicago.

The Illinois Campus Compact for Community Service hands out the honor bi-annually to recognize exceptional collaborations involving an Illinois college or university and a community organization. Twenty-five universities and colleges, including SIUC, belong to the Illinois Campus Compact, which promotes civic engagement and volunteerism among students.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter presented the award to representatives of SIUC and the Women's Center. The two organizations will split the \$15,000 grand prize.

SIUC Chancellor Walter V. Wendler was very pleased to pick up the phone in Carbondale and hear the applause in Chicago shortly after the announcement was made. "This recognizes an excellent program that is only possible through our partnership with the Women's

Center," he said. "It provides crucial services to Southern Illinois and gives our students great opportunities. We are very pleased."

Numerous SIUC representatives attended the ceremony in Chicago. "We all jumped up when we heard former First Lady Rosalynn Carter announce Southern Illinois University Carbondale as the grand prize winner," said Mythili K. Rundblad, coordinator of student development and the university's campus coordinator for AmeriCorps. "It was surreal and a great moment for SIUC." Rundblad wrote the application for the award.

"The relationship between SIUC and the Women's Center is one of a true partnership," said Camille Dorris, executive director of the Women's Center. "We could not do the work we do without the support of the students and faculty of SIUC."

"All the passion that I have for civic engagement and student citizenship was recognized by this award," continued Rundblad. "Many times when you do civic engagement work, we see the students learn and grow, but usually no one knows about this. But now, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter know. More than anything, it's a tribute to SIUC students, staff and faculty." Rundblad also noted that SIUC's Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Members contribute several hundred hours of service to the Women's Center every year.

Serving others and developing citizen-leaders with global perspectives are among the goals of Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment, the blueprint for the development of SIUC by the time it celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2019.

For more information:

Campus Compact, www.campuscompact.org

Illinois Campus Compact, www.illinoiscampuscompact.org

Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Partnership Foundation, www.jrcpf.org

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Illinois colleges and universities recognized:

- Benedictine University, Lisle
- Condordia University – Chicago (River Forest)
- Elgin Community College
- Elmhurst College
- Harrington College of Design, Chicago
- Illinois Wesleyan College, Bloomington
- Lewis University, Romeoville
- Loyola University Chicago
- McKendree College, Lebanon
- Millikin University, Decatur
- Roosevelt University, Chicago
- Saint Xavier University, Chicago
- Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
- University of Illinois at Springfield
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

with Distinction for Hurricane Relief Service

- Columbia College, Chicago
- Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights
- Trinity International University, Deerfield

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

with Distinction for General Community Service

- DePaul University, Chicago
- Illinois College, Jacksonville
- Trinity International University, Deerfield

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Service Learning 101

Workshop

January 26, 2007

South Cook Intermediate Service Center

Chicago Heights, Illinois

847.803.3535

mmangan@thecenterweb.org

Succession Planning – Build, Optimize, Exit

January 31, 2007, 9 a.m. to noon

The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago

Arlington Heights, Illinois

847.228.1320

volunteer@volunteerinfo.net

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Pre-Service Orientation

February 6 – 9, 2007

Rosemont, Illinois

312.353.3622

il@cns.gov

Key to Transformation –

Overcoming Five Pitfalls of Volunteer Management

February 20, 2007, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DuPage Association of Volunteer Administrators

630.407.8416

steven.wolfe@dupageco.org

www.dava-il.org

Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Breakfast

March 2007 (date/time TBA)

Office of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn

312.814.6673

ted.gibbs@illinois.gov

Senior Corps Conference

March 7 – 9, 2007

Illinois Department on Aging & Corporation for National and Community Service

Champaign, Illinois

Maureen.squires@illinois.gov

Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago

Sharing/Networking/Training

Fourth Tuesday of every month

773.753.1382

matt.porth@msichicago.org

Volunteer Management Training Series

The purpose of the Volunteer Management Training Series (VMTS) – developed by the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network and facilitated in Illinois by the Volunteer Centers of Illinois in cooperation with the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service – is to build the capacity of local organizations to utilize volunteers effectively.

The VMTS is a sequence of six courses based on research and effective practices in volunteer management: Understanding Volunteering, Planning a Volunteer Program, Recruiting & Placing Volunteers, Orienting & Training Volunteers, Supervising Volunteers, and Evaluating a Volunteer Program.

VMTS participants who complete all six courses and earn satisfactory scores on post-tests will receive the Illinois Volunteer Management Certificate of Accomplishment.

January 10, 2007: Orienting & Training Volunteers

Host: The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago (Arlington Heights)

Contact: 847.228.1320 or volunteer@volunteerinfo.net

January 16, 2007: Understanding Volunteering

Host: The Volunteer Center of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff

Contact: 847.234.8876 or volunteerlfb@hotmail.com

January 24, 2007: Supervising Volunteers

Host: The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago (Arlington Heights)

Contact: 847.228.1320 or volunteer@volunteerinfo.net

January 24 & 31, 2007: Volunteer Management Training Series (all six courses)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

Host: Community Resource Network Volunteer Center (Chicago)

Contact: 312.491.7820 or jdionisio@communityresourcenetwork.org

February 7, 2007: Evaluating a Volunteer Program

Host: The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago (Arlington Heights)

Contact: 847.228.1320 or volunteer@volunteerinfo.net

March 13, 2007: Planning a Volunteer Program

Host: The Volunteer Center of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff

Contact: 847.234.8876 or volunteerlfb@hotmail.com

Unless otherwise noted, all of the VMTS trainings will be held from 9 a.m. until noon. Contact the numbers/e-mails above for more information.

Volunteers.... the essential piece

2007 Annual

Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration

May 10 & 11, 2007

Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook IL

www.icova.org

Sara Monroe

312-353-8197

icovaconference@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE !



COMING IN MAY: The complete VMTS (all six courses) will also be offered at the annual Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (ICOVA).

Upcoming Days of Service

January 2007	National Mentoring Month
January 15, 2007	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – “A day ON...not a day off,” www.mlkday.org
March 12-16, 2007	National AmeriCorps Week
March 31, 2007	Cesar Chavez Day of Service & Learning, www.chavezfoundation.org/cesarchavez-day.html
April 15-21, 2007	National Volunteer Week, www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw
April 20-22, 2007	National & Global Youth Service Day, www.ysa.org/nysd/ or www.serve.net.org
May 5, 2007	Join Hands Day, www.joinhandsday.org



SERVE Illinois is a publication of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service. Send articles for submission and suggestions to:

SERVE Illinois Editor
 Illinois Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service
 535 W. Jefferson, 3rd Floor, Springfield, IL 62702
 DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov
 800.592.9896
 TTY 888.261.2713

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Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.



“Building Stronger Communities Through Service”

Published by
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 Springfield, IL 62704

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